

MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



30
JULY
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU™



MARTIAL ARTS MAYHEM AS THE
SON OF FU MANCHU BATTLES RAZOR-FIST
IN THE

PIT OF LIONS!

YOU WANT
ACTION?
OKAY, YOU
GOT
IT!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

FROM THE JOURNAL OF SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH: STATIONED IN A HYDROPLANE OUTSIDE THE PRIVATE GROTTO OF HEROIN CZAR, **CARLTON VELCRO**, PETRIE AND I SWIFTLY GREW **FRANTIC**. THE COMMANDO ASSAULT ON VELCRO'S FORTRESS-ESTATE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE WAS BEING SWEEPED TOWARD **FAILURE** AND **DOOM** WITH EACH UNNATURALLY LOUD TICK OF OUR **SYNCHRONIZED WATCHES**. ALREADY, THE RENDEZVOUS WAS SEVEN MINUTES BEHIND **SCHEDULE**. WHAT WAS **DETAINING** THEM? HAD AGENT CLIVE RESTON'S **COVER GUISE** AS NARCOTICS BUYER "MR. BLUE" BEEN **SHATTERED**? HAD BLACK JACK AND SHANG-CHI FAILED TO PENETRATE THE GROTTO'S DENSE **SECURITY SYSTEM**? AGAIN I BEGAN TO WORRY, AS I RECALLED SHANG-CHI'S **RELUCTANCE** TO ENLIST AS ONE OF MY **AGENTS**. I HAD **CONVINCED** HIM THAT THE COMPROMISE OF HIS PHILOSOPHY OF **PACIFISM** WAS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A **GREATER** JUSTICE, BUT STILL I SENSED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY **TROUBLED**...AND THOUGH I HELD NOTHING BUT THE UTMOST **CONFIDENCE** IN THE LAD'S **CAPABILITIES**, I BEGAN TO WONDER IF HIS BURDEN OF **SELF-DOUBT** MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE **MISSION**...IF EVEN HE, IN HIS PRESENT **STATE OF MIND**, COULD FIGHT THROUGH A VIRTUAL **ARMY** OF GUARDS AND **SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**...TO EVENTUALLY **CONQUER** THE VELCRO COMPLEX, AND **ESCAPE** WITH THE OTHERS ACROSS--

DOLG MOENCH • WRITER
PAUL GULACY
 and **DAN ADKINS** • ARTISTS
ARTIE SIMEK • LETTERER
JANICE COHEN • COLORIST
LEN WEIN • EDITOR

"Featuring supporting characters created by **SAX ROHMER**"

A GULF OF LIONS

"I HAVE MADE A DECISION OF THE **MIND**, THOUGH IT IMPERILS MY **SPIRIT**."

"BUT WHATEVER THE **RESULT**, I WILL OVERCOME **ANYTHING** IN MY **PATH**..."

"...TO **ENFORCE** THAT **DECISION**."



YOU ARE A MOST **SKILLED** INTRUDER. YOU HAVE PENETRATED MR. VELCRO'S SECURITY SYSTEM TO ITS **FINAL** AND MOST **EFFECTIVE** DEFENSE.

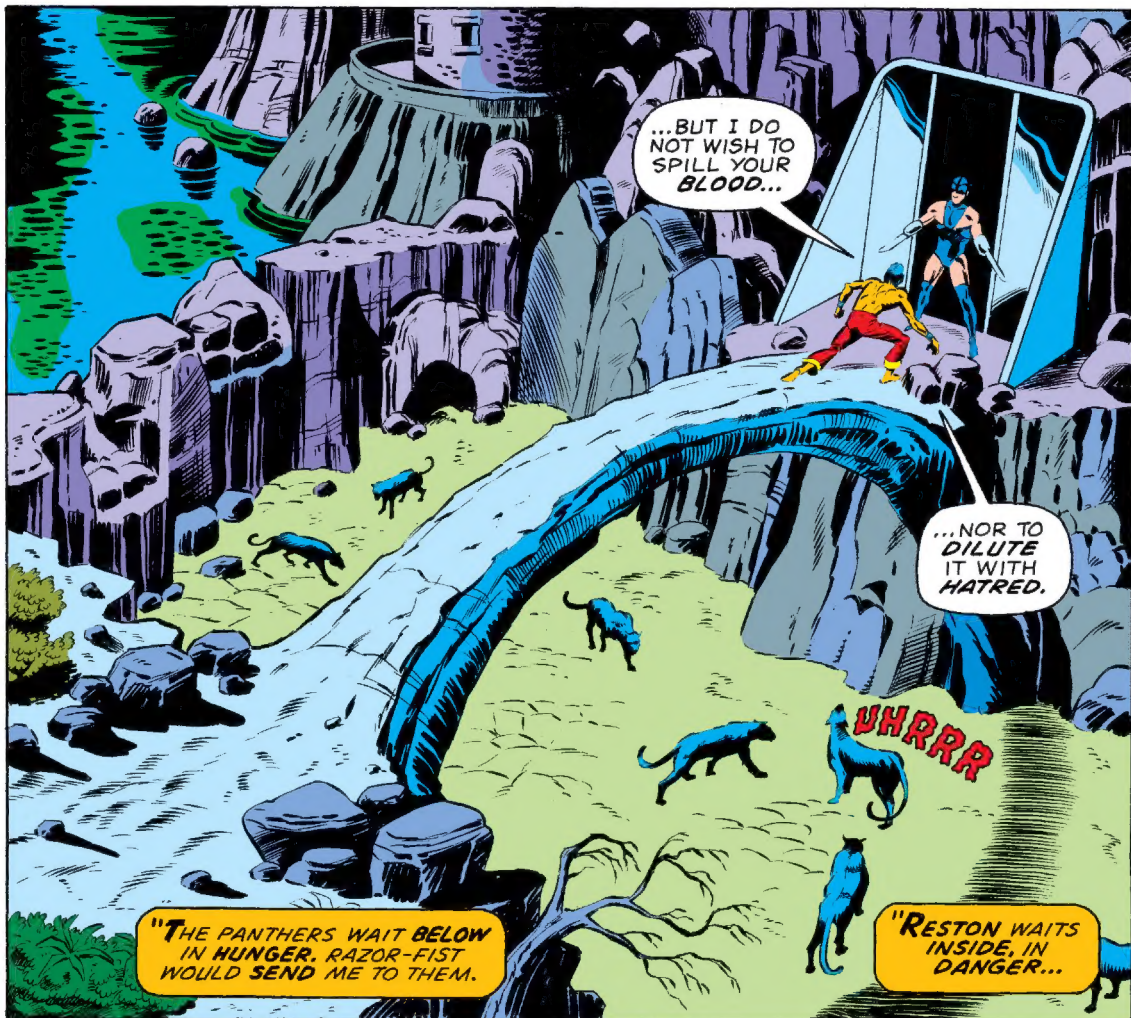
MY NAME IS **RAZOR-FIST**. KNOW THAT I SHALL **SPIT** UPON YOUR **BLOOD**.

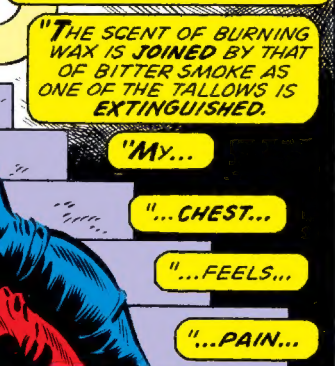
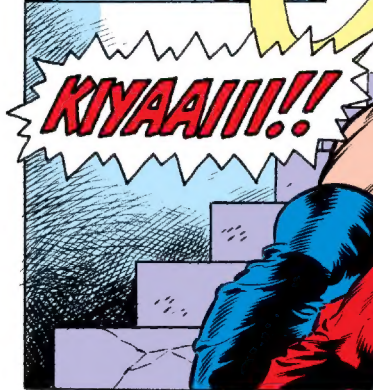
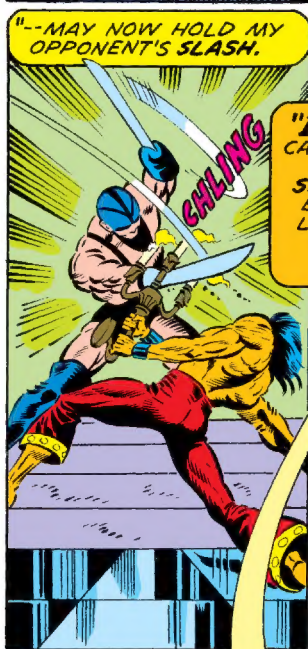
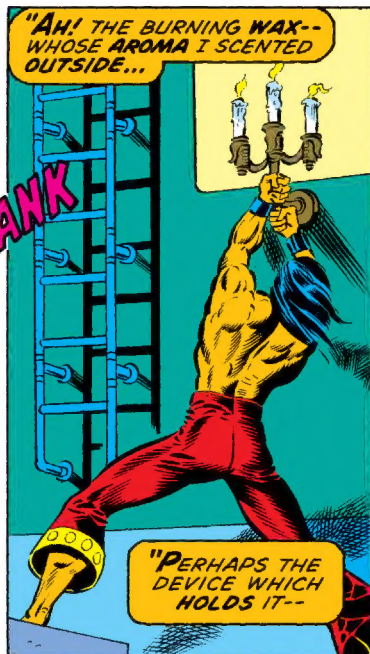
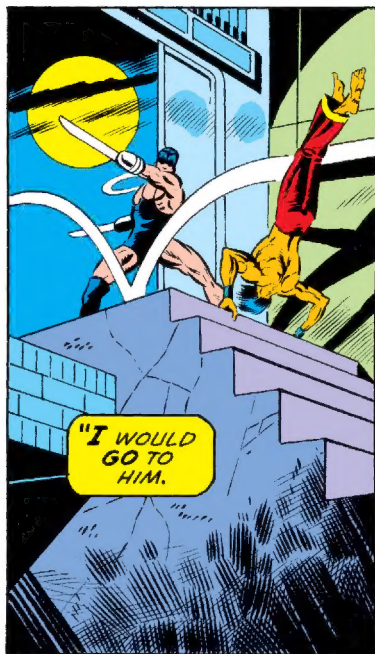
"A MAN BLOCKS MY PATH, BUT THOUGH I MUST NOT LET HIM STOP ME..."

"...I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FEEL HIS FOREARM BLOCKING MINE."

KNOW THAT MY NAME IS **SHANG-CHI**.

I MUST **PASS** YOU **RAZOR-FIST**...







"I THINK OF THE
STATUE..."

"...AS IT FEELS
NOTHING..."



"...WATCHING ME..."

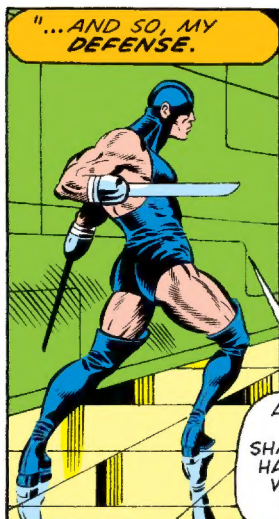
"...IN THE COLD
STRENGTH OF SILENCE."



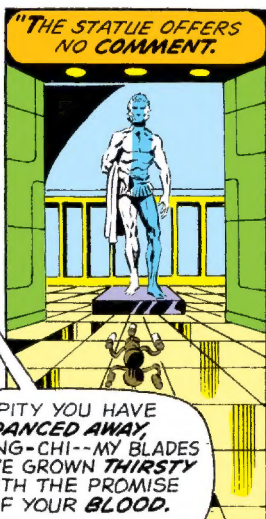
"...AND MY
THOUGHTS
FAIL ME."



"I MUST RELEASE
THE CANDELABRUM..."

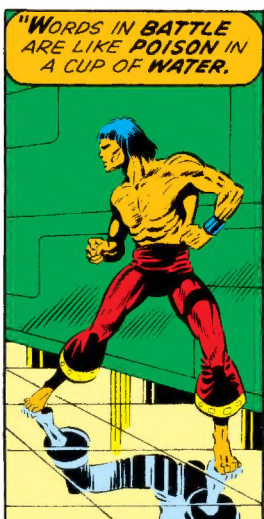


"...AND SO, MY
DEFENSE."

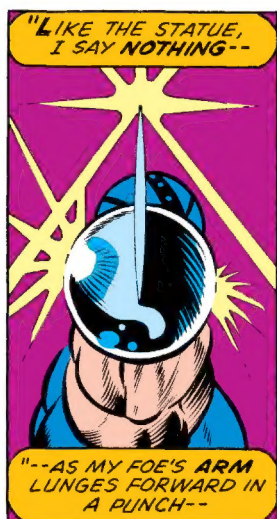


"THE STATUE OFFERS
NO COMMENT."

A PITY YOU HAVE
DANCED AWAY,
SHANG-CHI--MY BLADES
HAVE GROWN THIRSTY
WITH THE PROMISE
OF YOUR BLOOD.

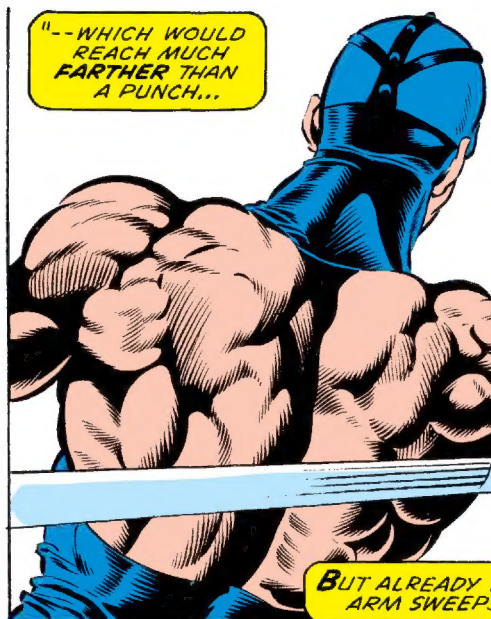


"WORDS IN BATTLE
ARE LIKE POISON IN
A CUP OF WATER."



"LIKE THE STATUE,
I SAY NOTHING--"

"--AS MY FOE'S ARM
LUNGES FORWARD IN
A PUNCH--"



"--WHICH WOULD
REACH MUCH
FARTHER THAN
A PUNCH..."

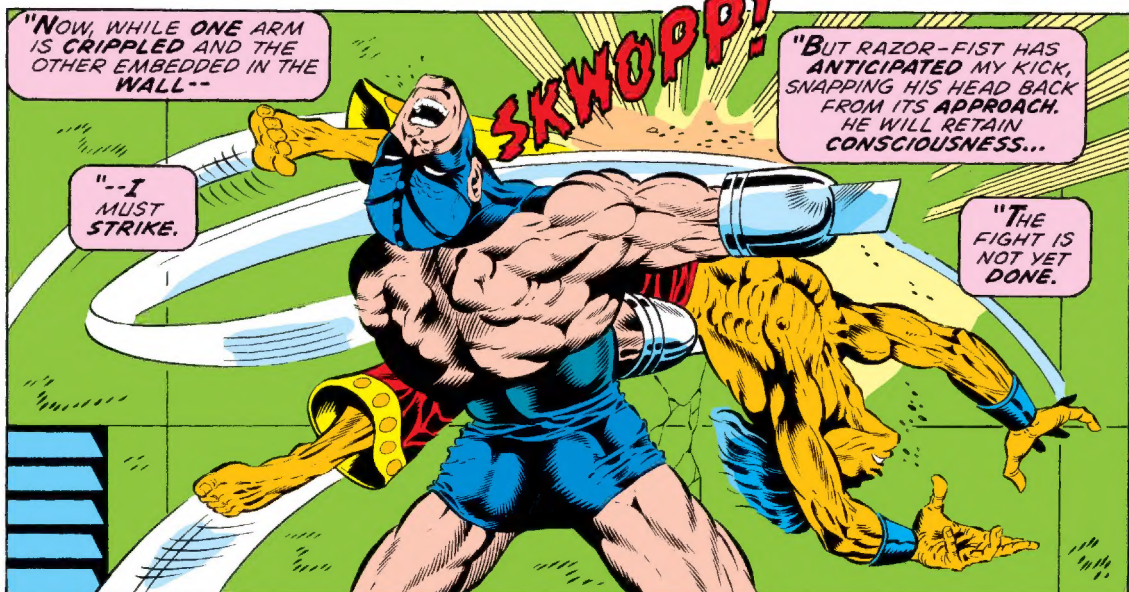
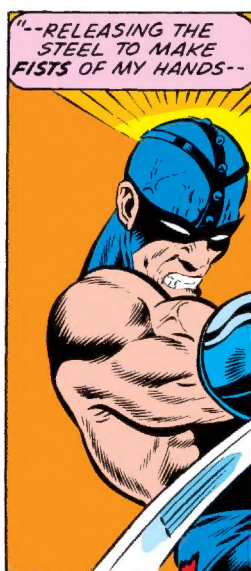
"...IF I BUT ALLOW
ITS PROGRESS TO
FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE
OF A DOUSED TALLOW."

"I DO NOT."



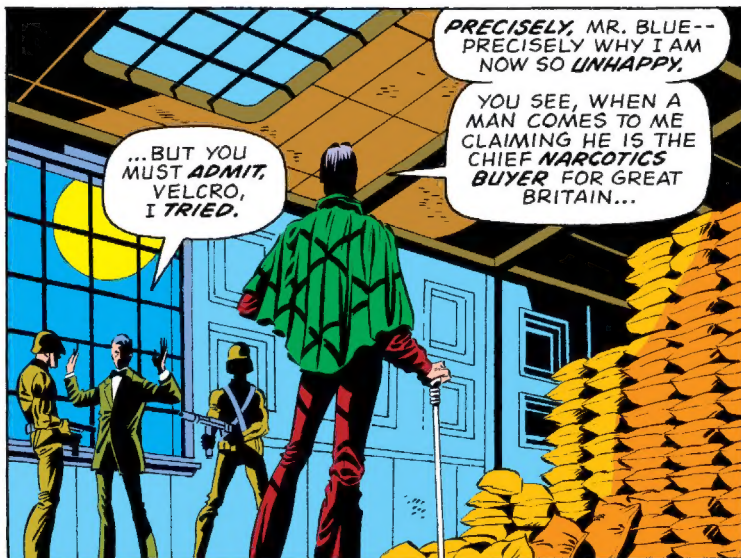
SLAK!

BUT ALREADY HIS OTHER
ARM SWEEPS BACK--





--SO I *WAS* A LITTLE BALMY TO THINK I COULD DESTROY YOUR WHOLE SANDBAGGED MOUNTAIN OF HEROIN...



...BUT YOU MUST ADMIT, VELCRO, I TRIED.

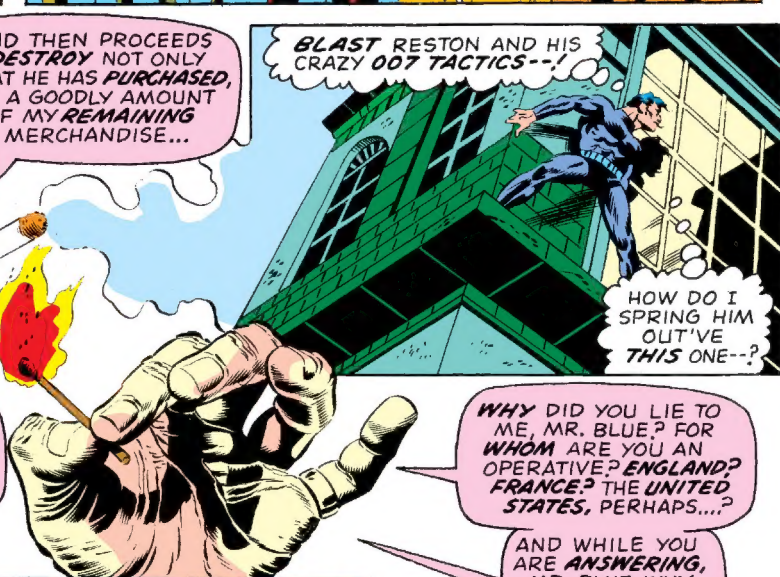
PRECISELY, MR. BLUE--
PRECISELY WHY I AM NOW SO UNHAPPY.

YOU SEE, WHEN A MAN COMES TO ME CLAIMING HE IS THE CHIEF NARCOTICS BUYER FOR GREAT BRITAIN...



...AND THEN PROCEEDS TO DESTROY NOT ONLY WHAT HE HAS PURCHASED, BUT A GOODLY AMOUNT OF MY REMAINING MERCHANDISE...

...THEN I MUST CONCLUDE HE IS A LIAR.



BLAST RESTON AND HIS CRAZY 007 TACTICS--!

HOW DO I SPRING HIM OUT'VE THIS ONE--?

WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME, MR. BLUE? FOR WHOM ARE YOU AN OPERATIVE? ENGLAND? FRANCE? THE UNITED STATES, PERHAPS....?

AND WHILE YOU ARE ANSWERING, MR. BLUE, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME?

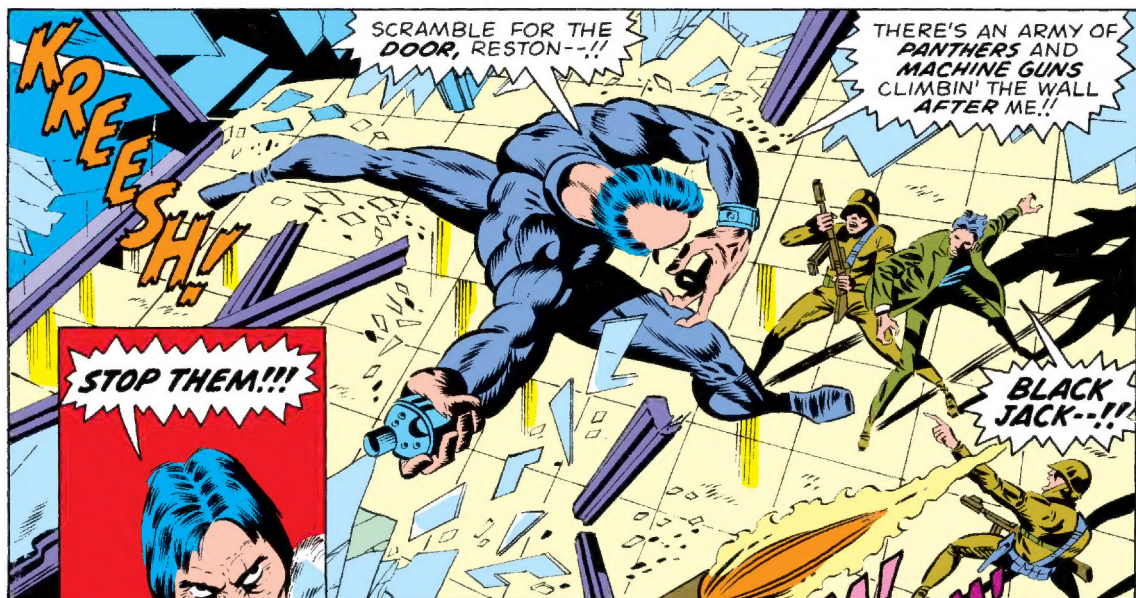


WHO'S UP THERE?! SWEEP THE LIGHT ACROSS THAT LEDGE--AND WHEN YOU CAN SEE THAT DUDE--

--CUT 'IM TO PIECES!!



I TOLD YOU--
THE NAME'S MICKEY MOUSE...
SENT BY PIGGLY WIGGLY
TO SEE ABOUT A MISSING CABBAGE--





AFTER ALL, OUR MISSION HAS **HARDLY** BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. THE HEROIN HAS YET TO BE **DESTROYED...**

HANG THE BLASTED **HEROIN!** WE'LL BE LUCKY IF **WE** GET OUT'VE HERE WITHOUT BEING DESTROYED.

COME ON-- **THIS** CORRIDOR LOOKS GOOD...

TARR, I THINK I'D BETTER **TELL** YOU SOME-THING...

SAVE IT, RESTON! WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF BEING **SNUFFED** IN CASE YOU HADN'T--



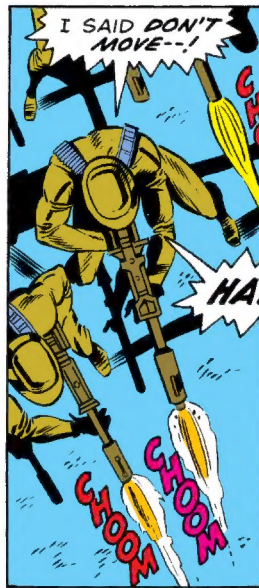
--BLAST!

THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO TELL YOU, **EVERY** CORRIDOR IN **THIS** PLACE--



--LEADS SMACK INTO A BLEEDIN' **TROOP** OF THOSE **FRESH-FROZEN** NAZIS--!

DON'T MAKE A **MOVE...**



I SAID **DON'T** **MOVE--!**

HALT!!



UH OH-- LOOKS LIKE **THIS** WAY'S NO **BETTER--!**

THAT'S THE **TROUBLE** WITH **BACK-TRACKING**, TARR...



...YOU RUN INTO PEOPLE YOU'VE **ALREADY MET.**

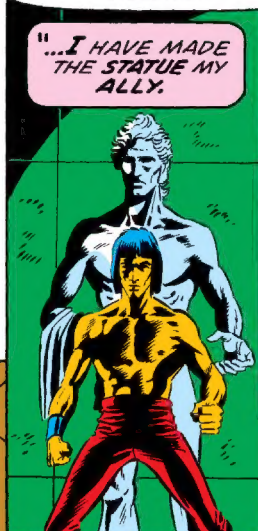
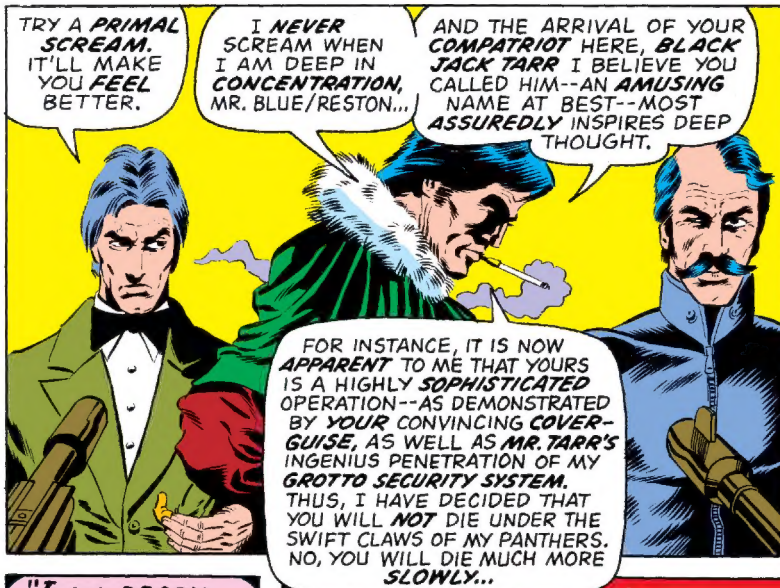
HOLD YOUR **FIRE...** THEY ARE **TRAPPED** NOW.

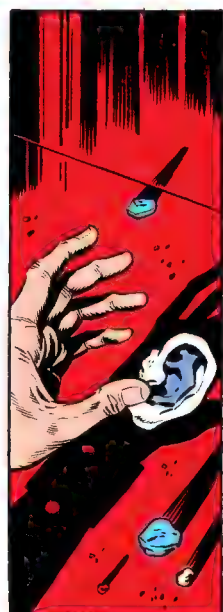
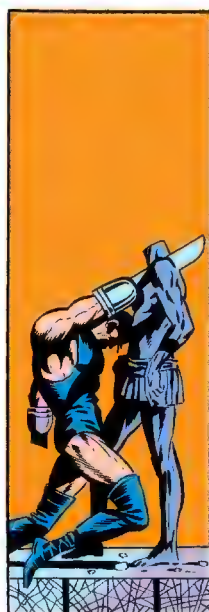
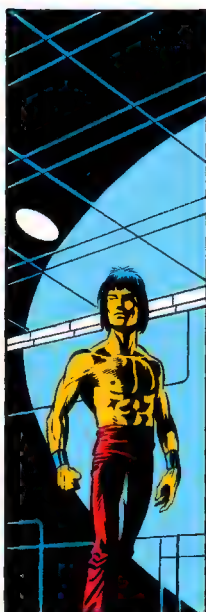
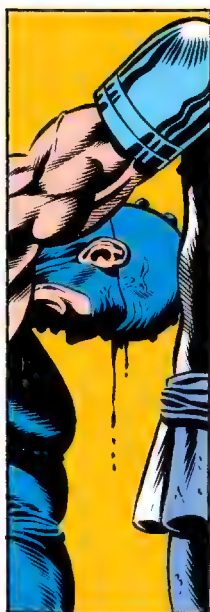
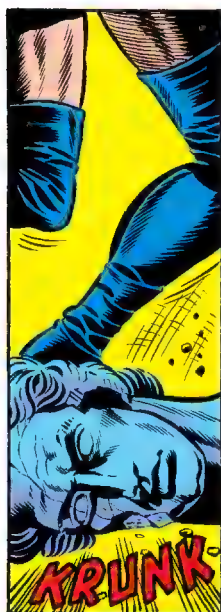


MR. **BLUE...** OR IS IT MR. **RESTON...** AS YOU KNOW, I AM AN EXTREMELY **PARTICULAR** MAN. MY EXTREMELY **PARTICULAR** BRAND OF CIGARETTES IS **GAULOIS...**

I DO NOT **APPRECIATE** YOUR BRITISH COMPANION'S ATTEMPT TO FILL MY LUNGS WITH SMOKE OF ANY **OTHER QUALITY.**

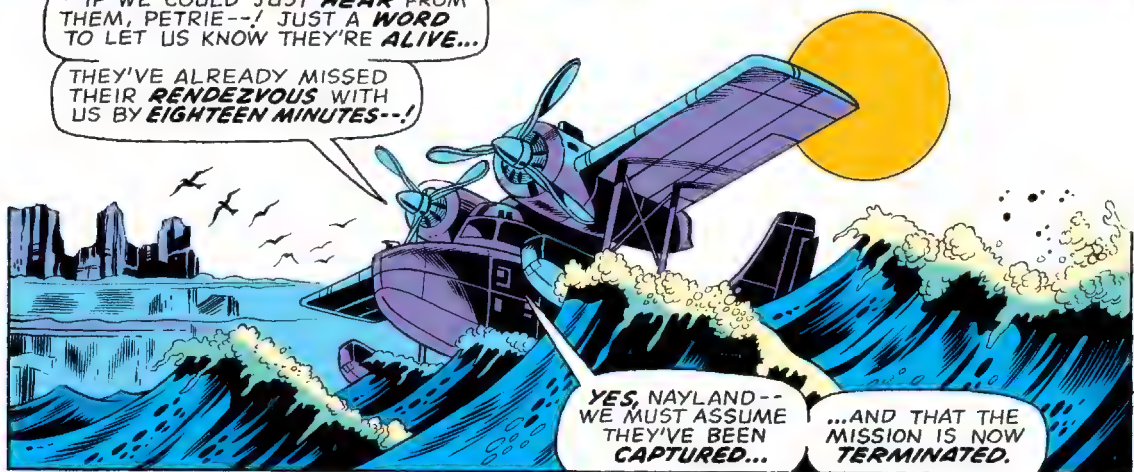
INDEED, I MIGHT GO SO FAR AS TO INSIST THAT YOU HAVE MADE ME... **ANGRY.**

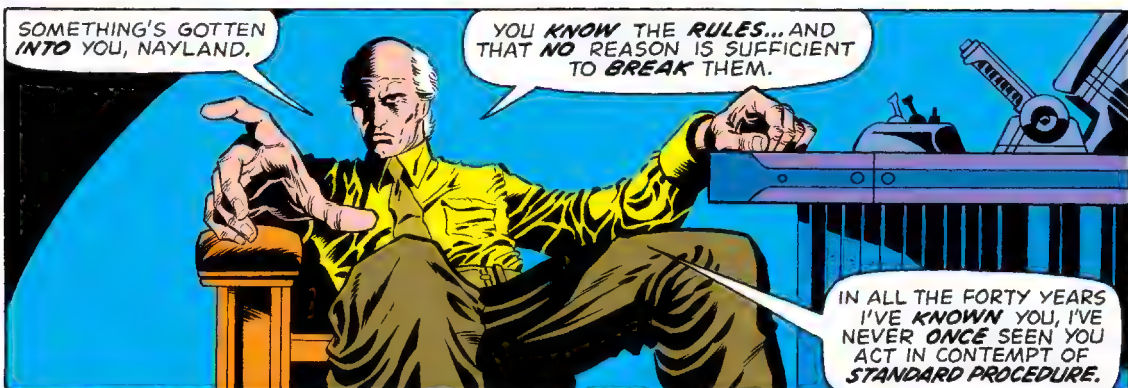


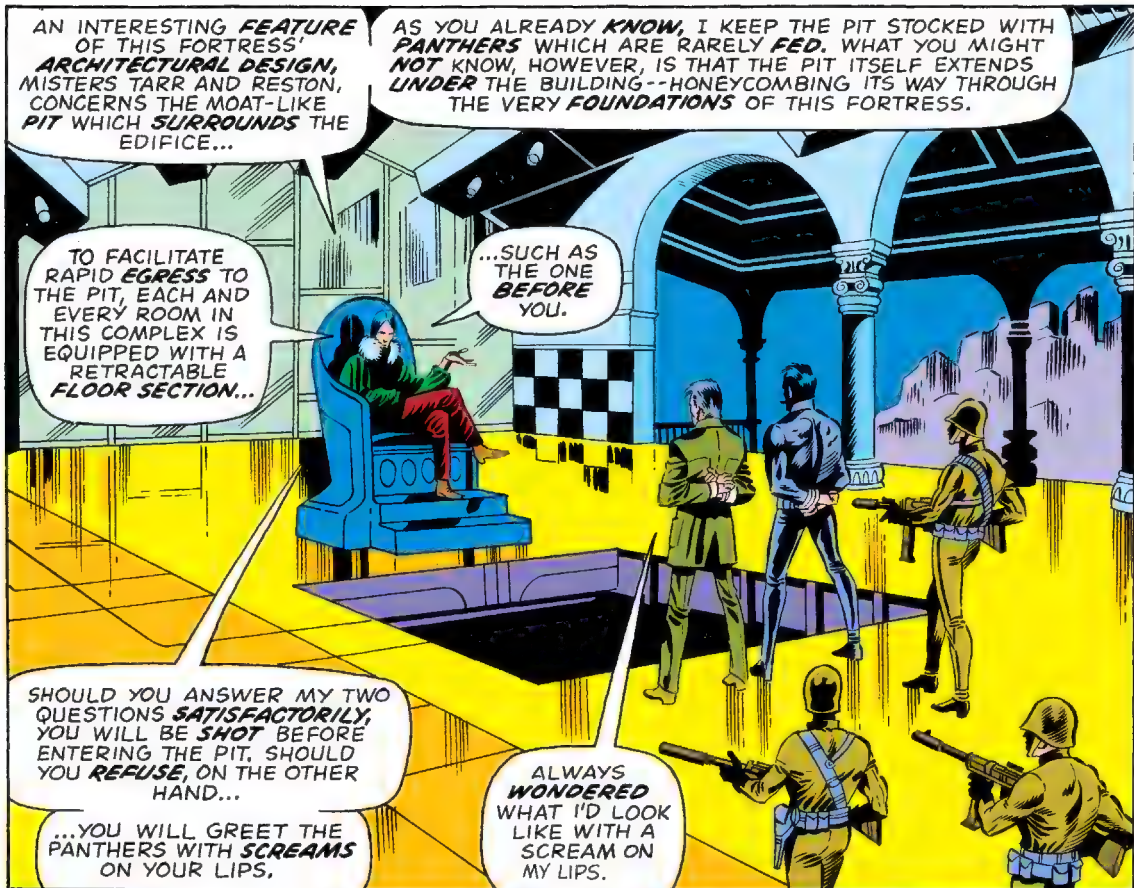


--IF WE COULD JUST **HEAR** FROM THEM, PETRIE--! JUST A **WORD** TO LET US KNOW THEY'RE **ALIVE**...

THEY'VE ALREADY MISSED THEIR **RENDEZVOUS** WITH US BY **EIGHTEEN MINUTES**--!









"--HE MUST SLEEP."



MY PANTHERS
HAVE WAITED
LONG ENOUGH.
SHOVE THEM
INTO THE--

DO NOT
MOVE.

OR I WILL
DROP WHAT
I AM HOLDING.



A **THIRD** NUI-
SANCE. DON'T
YOU REALIZE
I CAN HAVE
YOU FILLED
WITH A DOZEN
HOLES BEFORE
YOU EVEN
TWITCH YOUR
LITTLE
FINGER?



PERHAPS.
BUT
EVEN IN
DEATH...



...MY FIST
WILL
OPEN...

...AND THAT
WHICH IS
INSIDE
WILL **FALL.**



DOES HE
REALLY
HAVE A
BOMB,
TARR?

WITH
THAT
CRAZY
CHINAMAN
--WHO
KNOWS?



YOU HAVE
THREE
SECONDS--

--IN WHICH
TO LOWER
YOUR
WEAPONS.



TWO...

ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT--!
HOLD
YOUR
FIRE.

PERMIT
THEM TO
LEAVE.



WE'RE CLEAR,
CHI--YOU CAN
FOLLOW US
OUT NOW.



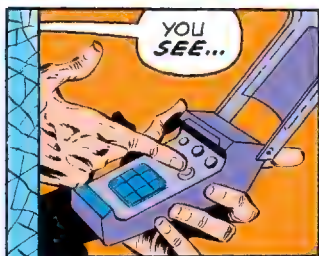
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT
US TO FIRE A *SHOT*, MR.
VELCRO--?!

THAT IS
CORRECT...



HURRY UP AND
UNTIE US,
CHINAMAN--!

MY FINGERS
ARE NUMB.

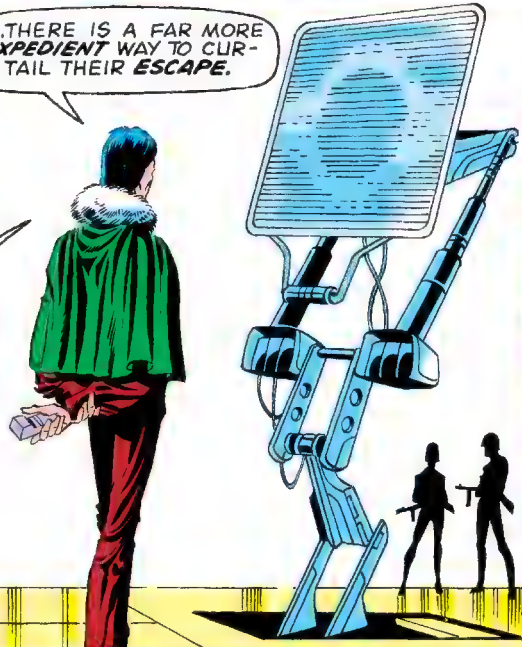


YOU
SEE...

...THERE IS A FAR MORE
EXPEDIENT WAY TO CUR-
TAIL THEIR ESCAPE.

FOR *EXAMPLE*, THIS
MONITOR INDICATES
THAT AN *ELECTRIC*
EYE HAS BEEN
TRIPPED ON THE
CAUSEWAY LEADING
TO *SECTOR 9-SOUTH*.

AND NOW WE SHALL
SEE THAT THERE IS
AN ELEMENT OF
PRECISION AND
BEAUTY WHICH
IS FOUND IN
ELECTRONICS...

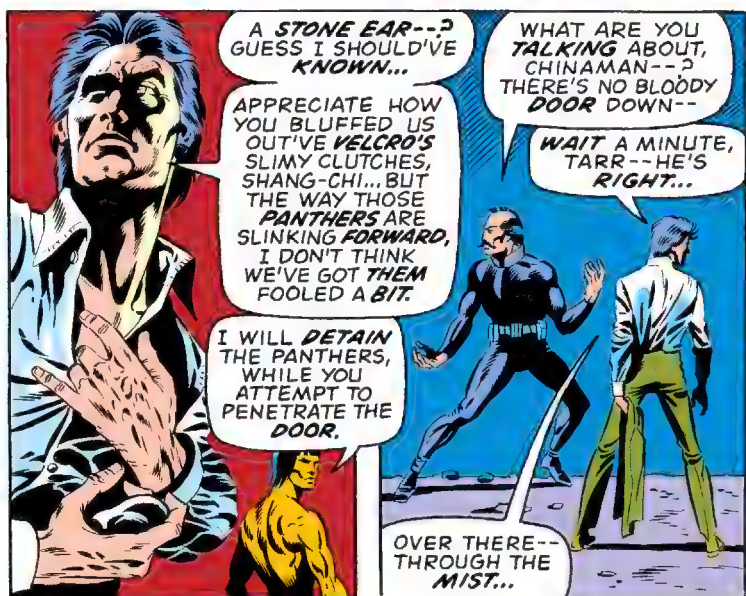
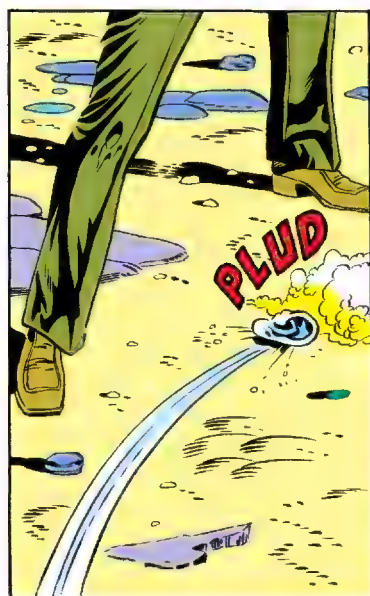


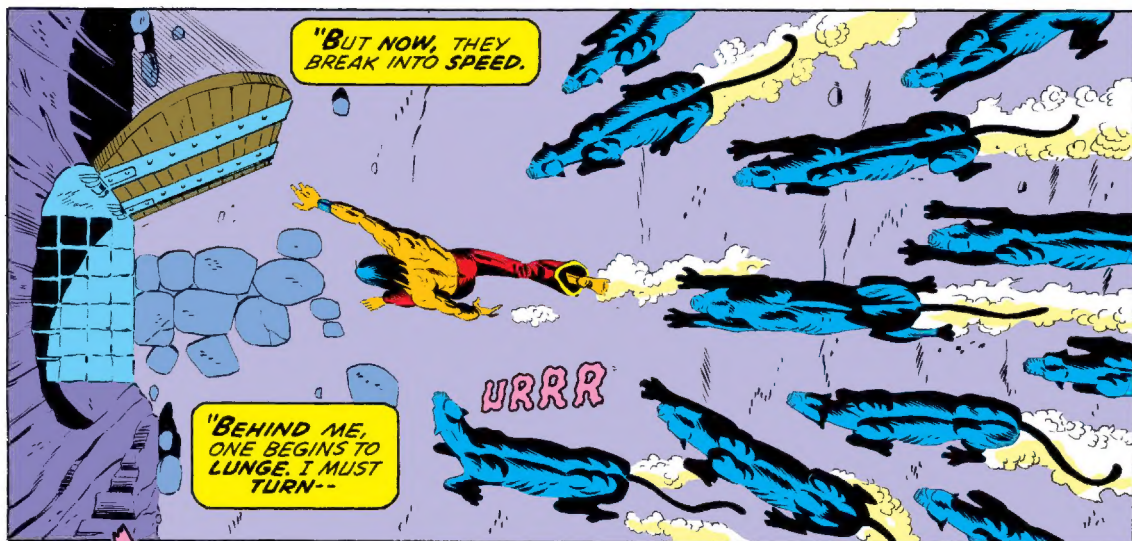
...BUT
NEVER IN
BALLISTICS.

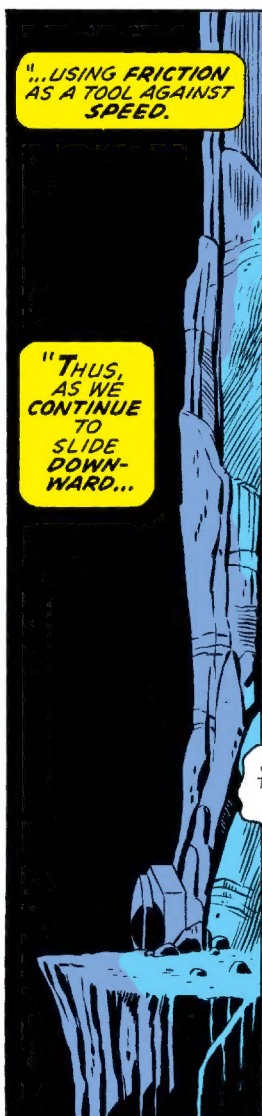
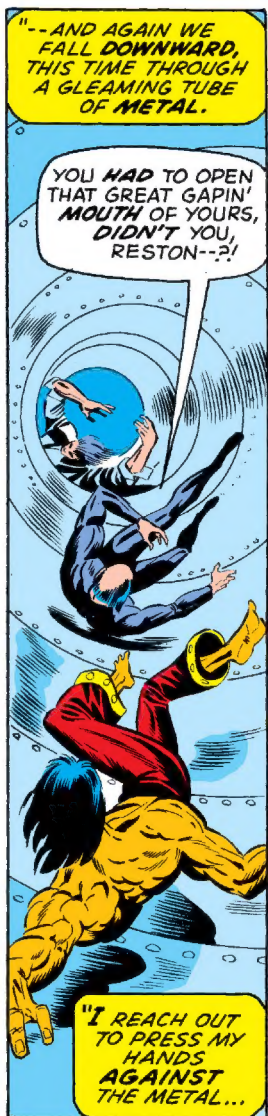
WITH
THE SIMPLE
PRESS OF
A *BUTTON*--

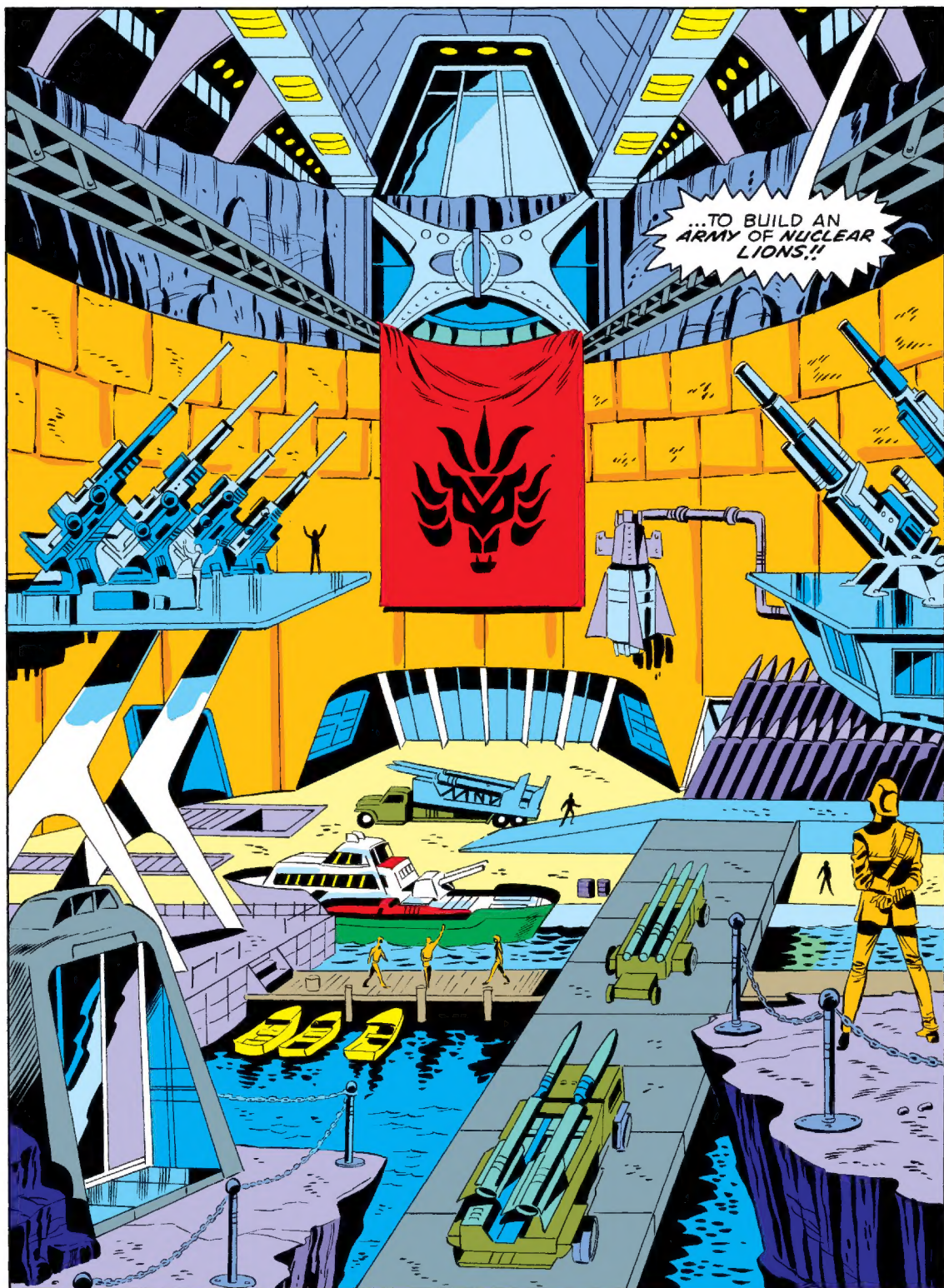


"THE FLOOR
VANISHES
BELOW US--









**NEXT
ISSUE:** *RAZOR-FIST! A SLEEK LADY AND HER PANTHER! THE MISSILE MACHINE!
ARMAGEDDON MINUS-ONE! THE MOST CATAclySMIC CONCLUSION IN THE ENTIRE
HISTORY OF COMICS! AND MORE--ALL IN THE MIND-STUNNER CALLED:*
SNOWBUSTER!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Len and Doug,

With Fu Manchu being handled more carefully, MOFK is becoming very, very intriguing. He is one of those magnetic characters who, when handled nicely, provides top-notch fiction. Since he has been around and survived for so long, it is a little hard to swallow seeing him set back time and time again. But MOFK #27 seems like the beginning of his emergence from being a constant thorn in Chi's side, to a very formidable and involving foe (which is the way in which his personality works best).

This ish started off as most other issues, with Chi being attacked, yet it turned into a very introspective and interesting tale. The dialogue between he and Chi over the final pages of this ish were perhaps the finest point of the series to date. It really highlighted their relationship (and also their relationship with Fah Lo Suee). The deep psychological ties between father, estranged son, and daughter made for a very involving scene. The exclamation that a triangular war is in the wings is great news indeed; as a continuing storyline, it will most probably be one of the highlights of the coming year, far exceeding in comparison the pale battles already played out.

The fill-in art job by John Buscema was also something else. How he can produce such a volume of quality work each month is beyond me. Has he, in reality *another* brother sharing his duties? I wouldn't doubt it, because I don't see how one person can do so much great work.

All in all, I thought it an excellent ish (which I imagine you've already gathered). Keep the interesting father/son/daughter conflicts moving, and the book will be better than ever.

Dean Mullaney
81 Delaware Street
Staten Island, NY 10304

Dear Len, Doug, and John,

I must admit, the "final" confrontation between Shang-Chi and his father, Fu Manchu, was both surprising and not wholly unsatisfying. Seldom it is that a villain (except in the case of Dr. Doom) is allowed to speak at length upon the motivations that have prompted him to attempt to attain world domination. Though I can hardly condone or approve the actions of this obviously evil man, it's always fascinating to view a wholly contrary world-perspective and understanding of the place of the individual in it.

From what I've read this issue, it appears Fu Manchu is attempting to re-create the past in a very meaningless present. He accurately sums up the dilemma of 20th Century Man when he states, "Do not condemn me for following a path different from yours. They all lead inevitably to death—and all men are equally rewarded for their actions in life with the same death." It's the idea of the "absurd world" Camus spoke of in *THE STRANGER*, but unlike the protagonist of that novel, Fu Manchu is trying to find meaning in this world by using his power to return it to a time when there was purpose and direction.

Fu's masterful little bit in the end when he asks Shang-Chi to kill him was fabulous; I believe this was Fu Manchu's

way of testing Shang, as he did once before, and the son's refusal to kill his father re-affirmed Fu Manchu's confidence in his offspring's character. It's interesting to note that on two occasions now, Fu Manchu has used the killing of a human being as the criteria for judging the character of his son.

Considering John Buscema's overcrowded schedule he did a superlative job on the art. And Doug Moench has continued in setting this series far above the expectations of those who were wary you'd be doing nothing more than cashing in on the current popularity of Kung Fu. Thanks to all of you not only for not insulting our intelligence, but for complimenting it.

Onward.

Ralph Macchio
188 Wilson Drive
Cresskill, NJ 07626

The familial triangle portrayed in MOFK #27 provoked more favorable reactions than either Doug or John anticipated—and they were expecting quite a lot. A hit! An instant classic! A study in character! But you know how suave and sophisticated these comics "biggies" pretend to be when the wind blows in their favor.

Ah, if the issue had bombed, there'd be vastly different responses, indeed. Instead of sitting back with their feet up, sipping sarsaparilla, Doug and John would be crying out piteously and beating their breasts betwixt a maundering soliloquy of truly moving proportions.

Just goes to show you something or other. We were trying to make a clever point here, a lasting observation, but we've... uh...well, we forgot what we were going to say.

Next letter!

Dear Doug:

I must admit, the Daughter of Fu Manchu is a natural for this series; yet, my misgivings are substantial with all of Rohmer's original Asian characters. In a way, it's a tribute to your ability at characterization that Fah Lo Suee is as recognizable as she is in the latest story—unfortunately, Rohmer was one of the major figures in popularizing the offensive image of Asian women as mystical, traitorous and sexually entrancing. At least we now have the original, rather than the imitation Suwan, grand-niece of Yellow Claw, or even—to a less evil but more cosmic extent—the Mantis.

I can only repeat that no matter how good the intention of comics' creators, such roles do act as racial representatives until we also see *good* Chinese mandarins in contrast to the deviant Fu Manchu and *good* Asian women in contrast to his—shall we say, weirdo—daughter.

William F. Wu
316 E. Madison #15
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Your points are well taken, Bill, and when you see what Doug intends to do with this series in the months to come, we'll be intensely interested to hear your observations and assessments on whatever progress we're making.

In the interim, don't take any wooden nickels or aluminum pennies, and boogie on back here to meet us in the ordained 30 days for the prescribed amount of high action and martial arts mayhem. We'll be waiting.